

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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S E C R E T MANILA 10311

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, RP, US

SUBJECT: JULY 28 MEETING WITH MARCOS: US BASES

1. SINCE RETURNING FROM HOME LEAVE, I HAD MY FIRST LENGTHY SUBSTANTIVE TALK WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS MORNING JULY 28 WHEN HE AND I MET PRIVATELY FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR. MOST OF THE PERIOD WAS CONSUMED IN DISCUSSION OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN PHILIPPINES.

2. AT OUTSET, I EXPLAINED TO MARCOS SOME OF CURRENT WASHINGTON ATMOSPHERICS, CITING HOUSE ACTION ON TURKEY AND PANAMA AS EXAMPLES OF VOLATILITY WHICH CAN SURROUND MILITARY BASE AND SECURITY ISSUES. I SAID THAT MOST OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE STATEMENTS ON U.S. BASES, NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY QUALIFIED, WERE REPORTED IN U.S. PRESS AS DEMANDS THAT U.S. LEAVE PHILIPPINE BASES. IT WAS MY SUGGESTION, THEREFORE, THAT WE TURN TO QUIET EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS IN SOME SYSTEMATIC FORM AND DROP THE RHETORIC.

3. MARCOS SAID HE HAD BECOME AWARE THAT HIS PUBLIC REMARKS HAD BEEN SENSATIONALIZED AND HAD ALSO COME TO

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CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE WISE TO CEASE PUBLIC COMMENTARY

ON THIS SUBJECT. I SAID I WOULD TURN DOWN SEVERAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS WHICH WERE BEING PRESSED ON ME. HE SAID HE WOULD INSTRUCT HIS CABINET TO DROP THE SUBJECT IN THEIR PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

4. I THEN SAID THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION IN OFFICIAL WASHINGTON ABOUT WHAT GOP REALLY WANTS WITH RESPECT U.S. BASES AND U.S. SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. I MENTIONED SEVERAL STATEMENTS MARCOS HAD MADE ABOUT "AUTOMATICITY" IN THE U.S.-RP SECURITY TREATY AND SAID THERE WAS UNANIMOUS VIEW IN WASHINGTON THAT IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS PANDORA'S BOX TO REOPEN THIS ISSUE WITH THE U.S. CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY AS THERE WAS NO RPT NO PRACTICAL ISSUE AT STAKE. I ALSO SAID WE WERE SOMEWHAT UNSURE WHAT MARCOS HAD IN MIND ABOUT FUTURE OF MAAG AND THE MDAP. BUT, MOST OF ALL, I SAID WE WERE CONFUSED BY ALL THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS MADE RE "FILIPINIZING" THE BASES.

5. MARCOS SAID WE COULD CONSIDER BOTH THE SECURITY TREATY AND THE MDAP ISSUES "ON THE BACK BURNER." HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD ARISE IN THE CONGRESS IF HE SEEKS TO REOPEN THE SECURITY TREATY. HE ALSO CONCEDED THAT THE ISSUE OF "AUTOMATICITY" IS MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN PRACTICAL.

6. HE THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION OF THE BASES AND SAID THAT GOP WAS INDEED HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN FORMULATING ITS DESIDERATA RE "FILIPINIZATION." THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT WHICH HAD BEEN PUT TO HIM WAS THE IDEA OF TURNING THE TWO MAIN BASES INTO JOINT RP-US ENTERPRISES, WHICH WOULD BE SEEN BY THE THIRD WORLD AND "OUR ASIAN NEIGHBORS" AS UNTAINTED BY "EXTRATERRITORIALITY." HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE MORE THE GOP STUDIED THE MATTER, THE MORE DIFFICULT THEY REALIZED THESE JOINT ENTERPRISES WOULD BECOME. HE SAID MELCHOR'S PEOPLE WERE IN TOUCH WITH U.S. BUSINESS PEOPLE (MELCHOR HAS MENTIONED TRIS BEPLAT TO ME) TO HELP THEM DEVELOP SOME PROPOSALS. AS OF THIS MOMENT, HE WOULD HAVE TO CONFESS, HE WAS NOT RPT NOT SURE WHAT SPECIFIC IDEAS THE GOP WOULD PUT FORWARD.

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7. HOWEVER, HE UNDERTOOK TO "CALL HIS BOYS TOGETHER" AND TRY TO GIVE ME SOME MORE PRECISION ON PHILIPPINE THINKING. HE SAID HE REALIZED I COULD NOT RPT NOT OBTAIN VERY PRECISE NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS UNLESS THE PHILIPPINE POSITION IS MORE CLEARLY STATED. HE HOPED TO GET BACK TO ME IN NEAR FUTURE.

8. AS AN ASIDE TO THESE DISCUSSIONS, MARCOS MENTIONED

WITH SOME AMUSEMENT HIS EFFORTS TO RAISE QUESTION OF U.S.
BASES WITH PRC OFFICIALS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO
PEKING. HE SAID HE TRIED WITH MAO, CHOU, TENG, AND EVEN
WITH CHIAO KUAN-HUA, BUT ALL OF THEM STEADFASTLY DUCKED
THE SUBJECT. KUKRIT REPORTEDLY TOLD MARCOS HE HAD MUCH
THE SAME EXPERIENCE IN PEKING.
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